FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 050 16 March 1987

ARGENTINA

Caputo Explains Vote 'Against' U.S. on Cuba B 1
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 14 Mar]
Government To Cooperate on Iranian Nuclear Plant B 1
Further Reportage on Debt Talks in New York B 2
'Prompt' Settlement Sought [AFP] B 2
Brodersohn To Participate [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 12 Mar] B 2
Machinea Discusses Loan [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 14 Mar] B 3
Negotiators Depart for U.S. [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 15 Mar] B 3
Alfonsin To Decide on Military Trials Jurisdiction B 4
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 14 Mar]
Ex-Federal Police Chief Arrested in Rights Case B 5
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 14 Mar]

BOLIVIA

President Paz, ADN's Banzer Comment on Meeting C 1
President Paz Speaks on Government Policies C 2
COB Secretary Threatens National Mobilization C 3
[Buenos Aires TELAM]

BRAZIL

Further on Maritime, Oil Workers Strike D 1
Situation Summarized 13 Mar D 1
Further Report D 1
Wage Hike; Army Withdrawal D 2
15 Mar Actions Reported [O GLOBO 15 Mar] D 2
Sarney Discusses Governors-Elect, Strikes D 3
Saudis Agree To Oil Sale With Letter of Credit D 3

COLOMBIA

Londono Responds to U.S. Criticism on Cuba UN Vote [DPA] F 1
Health, Labor Ministers, Two Governors Resign [EFE] F 1

ECUADOR

Febres Announces Suspension of Debt Payments [AFP] G 1
Export Suspension Affects All G 1
More on Economic Measures G 1
Unions Reject Measures [EFE] G 5
Budget Revision Considered G 6
Briefs: Presidency Secretary Appointed G 6

VENEZUELA

President Lusinchi State of the Union Address L 1
First Oil Shipment to Ecuador To Begin L 3

MEXICO

Defense Secretary on Antidrug Campaign M 1
Briefs: Drug Smugglers Detained; Narcotic Traffickers Arrested; Cocaine, Marijuana Seized M 1

PANAMA

Delvalle Not 'Afraid' of Economic Crisis [EL SIGLO 12 Mar] N 1
President Backs Arias C.A. Peace Proposal [DPA] N 1
Electrical Interconnection [San Jose] N 2

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Arias 'Pleased' With Shultz Peace Plan Reaction P 1
Government Issues Statement on UNO Activities [LA REPUBLICA 9 Mar] P 1
Arias To Send Delegation to Managua on Proposal [AFP] P 2
President Shows 'Indignation' on Landing Strip Use P 3

EL SALVADOR

Duarte Discusses Use of U.S.-Donated Funds P 4
FMLN Reports Release of Two Mayors, Warns Others [Venceremos] P 5

GUATEMALA

Cerezo Confirms 30-31 March Visit to Nicaragua [AFP] P 5

HONDURAS

Armed Forces Issue Report on Downed Plane P 6
Government Rejects Nicaraguan Protest Over Attack P 8
Army Releases Americans Held for Espionage P 8

NICARAGUA

Contras Report Downing of Sandinist MI-24 Helicopter [DPA] P 9
Cesar Views Reorganization of Resistance Forces [AFP] P 9
Government Seeks Contadora Help on Border 'Attacks' [BARRICADA 13 Mar] P 10
Joint 'Mercenary Forces,' U.S. Exercises Reported P 12
Opposition Party Figure on Meeting With Habib P 12
Bank President Denies VOA Report on Debt [BARRICADA 12 Mar] P 12
Regional Ministers Favor Ortega Coffee Initiative P 13
C.A. Economy Ministers Discuss Regional Economy [BARRICADA 13 Mar] P 13
Women Discuss Role in Society, Discrimination [San Salvador] P 14

CUBA

Castro Speech at Medical Sciences Institute Q 1
Castro Concludes Tour Q 3

GUYANA

Nonaligned Countries Issue Communique, Peace Appeal T 1
Delay on Final Document T 2
Algerian Delegation Arrives [APS] T 2

CAPUTO EXPLAINS VOTE 'AGAINST' U.S. ON CUBA

PY142125 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Mar 87 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo yesterday described as "distorted" news agency cables saying Argentina had voted against a U.S. proposal in the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations in Geneva condemning the human rights situation in Cuba. Caputo said what Argentina had voted in favour of was a matter of procedure on a proposal submitted by India that no action be taken on the United States proposal nor on a similar proposal by Cuba against the U.S. The foreign minister said practically all Latin American nations had also voted in favour of the Indian proposal.

GOVERNMENT TO COOPERATE ON IRANIAN NUCLEAR PLANT

PY131311 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1655 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Mar (NA) -- The National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA) is planning to participate in the final stages of the construction of a nuclear power plant in Iran, which is considered among the most powerful in the Third World with a capacity of 1,293 megawatts.

This information was published in the weekly NUESTRA BROCHURE, which specializes in foreign trade and exchange news. The magazine cited diplomatic, industrial, and military sources, and attributed the initiative to "a new pragmatic approach in Argentine foreign trade policy."

The Iranian nuclear plant, which was begun toward the end of the government of Shah Reza Pahlevi, used enriched uranium. Thus, Argentina could only provide its experience in the engineering details because Argentine experts work exclusively with natural uranium.

The weekly stated that its sources did not reveal how much Argentina would earn in this venture, nor who would pay the expenses. Iran itself could pay them, as could the West German firm KWU [Kraftworke Unions], which is a partner with Argentina in the Argentine Nuclear Enterprise for Electrical Power Plants (ENLACE). KWU is in charge of this project, along with Iranian and Spanish companies.

The sources said, however, that in 1985 the trade balance between Argentina and Iran was $550 million, of which $549 million was paid for Argentine grain, and $1 million for bull semen.

It is important to emphasize the announcement made last week by a high-ranking military industry official regarding the sale of $31 million worth of Argentine-made armaments to Iran.

The foreign enterprises participating in the construction of the Iranian reactor are the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), the KWU, the Spanish firm Associated Enterprises (Empresarios Agrupados) and the Argentine CNEA.

The KWU, which holds 75 percent of the shares, is associated with the CNEA in ENLACE, and built the Atucha I nuclear plant. It is presently in charge of the Atucha II project.

The Spanish firm, which might work on the Iranian project called Bushehr I on Khark Island, is also building the KWU-designed Trilla reactor in Spain.

The construction of Bushehr I began in 1979 under the Shah's government, but it was interrupted after the Islamic revolution put the Ayatallah Khomeyni in power.

In 1980, however, Iran suffered greatly from electric power shortages and decided to continue the construction of the reactor, which is 75 percent complete.

The remaining 25 percent includes the most important part of the reactor, the generator plant fueled by enriched uranium.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON DEBT TALKS IN NEW YORK

'Prompt' Settlement Sought

BK150510 Hong Kong AFP in English 0456 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, March 15 (AFP) -- Argentina is seeking a "prompt and speedy" solution to its foreign debt commitments but will not copy other Latin American states and suspend debt repayments, treasury secretary, Mario Brodershon said Saturday ahead of a second round of talks in the United States with creditors.

M. Brodershon, who was accompanied on his trip by the chairman of the Central Bank, Jose Luis Machinea, said there had been some progress so far but there remained "differences on certain points". He said Argentina was seeking an arrangement "which would permit a four per cent increase in gross domestic product in 1987". He said there was a need for a "prompt and speedy settlement for which the banks should swap their old formulas for more dynamic and active solutions."

Mr Brodershon said Argentina had submitted a formula to its creditors asking for an extra 2,150 million dollars and a "substantial" reduction in interest rates. He said "President (Raul) Alfonsin asked us to seek a financial arrangement which will permit economic growth."

Brodersohn To Participate

PY130109 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] (NA) -- Treasury Secretary Mario Brodersohn and Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea will travel to the United States this weekend, even though their presence in that country does not mean that national economic authorities expect an immediate agreement with creditor banks on the refinancing of foreign debt payments.

Brodersohn and Machinea will arrive in the U.S. while Argentine negotiators continue to analyze the creditor bank's counterproposal put forward last week.

Both officers will participate in a debate on the foreign debt, but observers ruled out the possibility they would join the Argentine negotiators in the study of the counterproposal.

The creditor banks have offered a 15-year refinancing period, with a five-year grace period, but they are not willing to give up "on-lending" credits, which they can directly control from abroad.

Besides they have put forward an alternative capitalization plan, whereby creditors will contribute with variable amounts of fresh funds based upon the gap between the official dollar and the Bonex dollar. Argentina had proposed that "one dollar be invested for each capitalized dollar."

The U.S. and the World Bank are encouraging creditor banks to support Argentina's economic plan through the granting of additional financing.

The World Bank told Argentina's private creditor banks that financial assistance to that country had to be available as soon as possible because otherwise, "a unique opportunity to help the government take Argentina along a new economic path could be lost."

The World Bank's position, which includes clear support for the government's economic plan, was announced to the creditor banks by the director for the Latin American area of that institution, Andre Gue, who arrived in Buenos Aires yesterday.

Machinea Discusses Loan

PY142046 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] (NA) -- Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea yesterday said negotiations for the refinancing of the country's foreign debt "are very difficult" at this point, adding that he will probably join the Argentine delegation which will travel to New York today to participate in the last round of discussion with creditor banks.

The delegation, headed by Treasury Secretary Mario Brodersohn, will try to obtain a new 2.1-billion-dollar credit, convince creditor banks to reduce interest rates, accept Argentina's capitalization proposal (one dollar invested for each capitalized dollar), dissuade creditors from continuing with on-lending loans which the banks can directly control from abroad.

The Argentine position has been strongly supported by the United States and the World Bank, who are encouraging creditor banks to support the country's economic plan through the granting of additional financing.

Machinea and Economy Ministry Juan Sourrouille yesterday had lunch with World Bank Vice-President David Knox, who arrived in Buenos Aires on Wednesday.

Machinea said they discussed the two billion dollar loans recently granted by that institution and the projects involved in this package of credits. He confirmed he might join Brodersohn's delegation, but will be back on Tuesday.

Brodersohn, however, will remain in New York until an agreement is concluded.

Negotiators Depart for U.S.

PY152137 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 Mar 87 p 15

[Text] (NA) -- Treasury Secretary Mario Brodersohn and Central Bank Chairman Jose Luis Machinea flew last night to New York for the final round of negotiations with creditor banks on the refinancing of Argentina's foreign debt.

Machinea, who on Friday lunched with World Bank Vice President David Knox, was due to remain on in New York until the conclusion of the negotiations.

The two officials will try to obtain a fresh loan of 2.15 billion dollars from the creditor banks, convince them to reduce interest rates, and to approve Argentina's proposal that its economy should grow four percent this year.

Knox said the World Bank was studying with Argentina a proposal to restructure some of the large state enterprises, adding that this project and the expansion of Argentina's exports deserved full support from all sectors.

Knox, the World Bank vice-president for Latin America, said a vital problem for Argentina was to diversify its exports by increasing exports to non-traditional goods rather than by cutting down on traditional exports.

The World Bank official said it was probable that a free exchange market would become indispensable to achieve a successful capitalization, which under Argentina's proposals meant one dollar invested for every dollar capitalized.

He said the Austral Plan had shown very few favourable results so far but added that this was probably due to the very short period it had been in force.

Knox had words of praise for Argentina's economic policies, saying he believed if the government continued its policies it would produce the necessary conditions for a successful capitalization.

ALFONSIN TO DECIDE ON MILITARY TRIALS JURISDICTION

PY142030 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Mar 87 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The Federal Appeals Court yesterday rejected a challenge presented by the Armed Forces Supreme Council and accused the military tribunal of "hampering and delaying the activities of constitutional judges" in the case investigating human rights abuses committed under the jurisdiction of the First Army Corps.

President Raul Alfonsin will now have to decide whether the Supreme Council members have neglected the duties stipulated in the military judicial code.

The question of jurisdiction as submitted by the Armed Forces in the case involving the former commander of Defense Zone I in the federal capital, retired General Jorge Olivera Rovere.

The Rosario Federal Appeals Court similarly rejected and considered "disrespectful" a written statement by the Supreme Council calling the appeals court incompetent to rule on the case investigating human rights abuses in the Second Army Corps.

The Supreme Court yesterday ordered Federal Appeals Court to file all cases of conflict of jurisdiction presented by the Supreme Council and to continue with human rights trials under way.

Former Fifth Army Corps second-in-command retired General Acdel Vilas yesterday gave his third day of testimony before the Bahia Blanca Federal Appeals Court.

Sources reported that Vilas had given the court documents showing that he acted under orders from the military junta and former Interior Minister Albano Harguindeguy in arresting terrorist suspects.

The testimony of the general is widely believed to be unique in its scope of detail regarding anti-terrorist operations.

Vilas reportedly gave no information on his subordinates or on the many units operating under his command.

Lawyer Horacio Mendez Carreras yesterday requested an extension for the presentation of evidence in relation to the case investigating the abduction and murder of French nuns Leonie Duquet and Alice Domon by Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz and other officers belonging to the Navy Mechanics School (ESMA).

La Plata Federal Appeals Court Prosecutor Raul Tierno yesterday excused himself from the case against former Buenos Aires police chief Ramon Camps, who last week called Tierno "the father of a terrorist killed in combat." No reason for the decision were provided.

Education and Justice Minister Julio Rajneri, meanwhile, called for the need to limit the concept of due obedience and suggested that the courts handling human rights trials might arrive at that decision "in the near future."

He underlined that the decision will definitely be judicial but admitted it would include a "much needed political solution."

EX-FEDERAL POLICE CHIEF ARRESTED IN RIGHTS CASE

PY142032 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Cordoba (NA) -- Former Federal Police Chief Juan Sasiain was arrested yesterday on orders from the Cordoba Federal Appeals Court after he refused to testify before the civilian tribunal in the case investigating human rights abuses committed under the jurisdiction of the Third Army Corps.

Sasiain read a statement rejecting the competence of the appeals court to treat his case and regarding human rights trials as "the continuation of the revolutionary war."

The retired general is expected to be placed under rigorous preventive arrest on Monday. Lieutenant Colonel Osvaldo Quiroga is currently under preventive arrest in the same case.

PRESIDENT PAZ, ADN'S BANZER COMMENT ON MEETING

PY132352 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President Victor Paz Estenssoro has stated that the pact for democracy signed between the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR] and the Nationalist Democratic Action [ADN] has been strengthened following the meeting he held with ADN leader Hugo Banzer.

Yesterday, President Victor Paz Estenssoro, who is the MNR leader, met with General Banzer. Banzer came from Santa Cruz to discuss political problems related to the position adopted by ADN congressmen who voted in favor of censuring President Paz' Cabinet. Despite denials from the two parties the censure jeopardized the pact for democracy. However, President Paz was able to overcome the political storm and came out strengthened at the conclusion of the meeting with Banzer. Last night Radio Panamericana spoke to the president.

[Reporter] "Was the meeting with Banzer positive?"

[Paz] "Yes, it was very positive."

The second question was whether or not the pact for democracy is being maintained?

[Paz] "It has not only been maintained, but strengthened."

Hugo Banzer was more explicit at his news conference at the El Alto International Airport a few minutes before returning to Santa Cruz. Banzer expressed his party's full support for the current democratic system and his satisfaction over the results of the meeting with Presient Paz. Banzer added that he was happy to have come to the Government Palace because he was able to clarify important aspects of his party's position.

[Banzer] "First of all, ADN is not taking a destabilizing position. Second, the government should recognize that the concept of the royalties is valid and that the debt is also valid."

Banzer categorically said that Bolivians should not allow a power struggle between the legislative and the executive branches.

[Banzer] "It would be a great mistake if Bolivians sponsor a confrontation between the state powers, that is the legislative branch against the executive branch. We are not seeking anything like that. I do not think the crisis the country is experiencing can allow a confrontation of this nature. Any Bolivian who does not make an effort to prevent this type of confrontation should not be called a Bolivian."

Banzer indicated that President Victor Paz Estenssoro promied to give a solution to the departments that produce oil; therefore, if policies are changed the confirmation of the Cabinet is justified.

PRESIDENT PAZ SPEAKS ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES

PY132355 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Relay from Government House]

[Text] An act of support to President Victor Paz Estenssoro ended a few minutes ago. Numerous MNR members gatherned in the (Rico Hall) of the Government Palace to express to the president their complete support for the government's economic policy and of his ratification of the national cabinet. The president thanked his followers for their support of his government and his presidency. He then improvised a short speech in which he referred to the government's economic program and the prospects for reactivation.

[Begin Paz recording, in progress] ...for this support you are giving me now amidst the political crisis the country faces. I have felt that [passage indistinct] throughout nearly 50 years of political life. That is why your gesture today moves me.

Your support is very meaningful in current times; it means government stability. We need continuity in directing this country, and I am trying to turn this into an administration characteristic. Your support helps me to keep this continuity.

We have carried out a policy designed to help the country. From the start, many people have believed in us and thought we would be successful, while others did not trust us and did not think it was possible to achieve development in Bolivia. We have demonstrated that Bolivia is capable of development.

We have managed to curb inflation. We have consolidated monetary stability, and we are now improving social conditions. We first worked on an emergency basis, but now we are nearly ready to announce a continuous development process.

All this can be done because we have a government team that is already acquainted with our problems. We cannot allow ourselves to change the team at a moment when we are not obtaining the necessary aid and the first postive results. I would be irresponsible if I did so. You support helps me to maintain the team with whom I have been working so far, the team with which I have been successful, and with which I will triumph. [applause]

Our political position [words indistinct] circumstances, as mentioned by Senator Ayoroa. Given the crisis' characteristics we have not been able to [words indistinct]. Our plan leads us to face the crisis realistically, not as [words indistinct], not irresponsibly.

[Words indistinct] I have not been able to please many workers who have asked for work; however, we are creating the necessary general conditions to meet the job demands of all the workers [applause]. We have promised to [passage indistinct]?

We are now trying to find new economic activities that will create more jobs. This is what working for Bolivia really means, especially for party fellowmen who are mostly good workers. [cheers]

I once again thank you for your support and I promise you that in a short time we will start observing the signs, well, not signs really, but results of our country's full economic recovery. We will overcome our troubles because we are a party that is used to making efforts.

We are a party that is used to facing bad circumstances. That is how we did it when I took charge of the government and that is how we will continue doing it until we triumph. [applause]

The government's triumph does not mean a personal triumph for me, my administration, or the MNR. It means a triumph for Bolivia. The only path we can follow is the one we are following now, and if this path leads us to a positive result, it will mean that we have achieved our objectives of wellbeing, progress, and sustained development for Bolivia and all the social classes in all the parts of our national territory. Thank you. [end recording]

You have just heard President Victor Paz Estenssoro's speech delivered this evening before a large group of MNR members who came to Government House to express their total support and solidarity with the government economic measures and his ratification of the Cabinet.

Afterward, President Paz held a short conversation with journalists and said that his meeting with ADN leader General Hugo Banzer Suarez, has yielded very positive results. Paz said that the pact will not only be maintained but it has been greatly strengthened since the meeting with Gen Banzer.

COB SECRETARY THREATENS NATIONAL MOBILIZATION

PY131807 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0318 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] La Paz, 12 Mar (TELAM-EFE) -- Juan Lechin Oquendo, executive secretary of the Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB), and main Bolivian union leader, today returned from Oruro where he participated in a mine workers protest march and announced that the COB is preparing a general moblization with street demonstrations and a national hunger strike in rejection of the economic policy of President Victor Paz Estenssoro's administration.

Lechin Oquendo criticized the government's economic policy and said that it has been imposed by U.S. neoliberals from Harvard University to the detriment of the Bolivian people's interests.

Victor Lopez Arias, executive secretary of the Mine Workers Federation, who also participated in the march in Oruro, said that antigovernment mobilizations will take place now, after 18 months of vain efforts to establish a sincere dialogue with authorities.

Information Minister Herman Antelo voiced an official reply to these declarations by expressing his concern over possible deterioration of the social crisis.

Antelo admitted that the economic policy was harsh in its first phase because hyperinflation must be controlled. He assured, however, that it will become more flexible as the economic situation improves.

FURTHER ON MARITIME, OIL WORKERS STRIKE

Situation Summarized 13 Mar

PY131504 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] As a result of a decision by Petrobras yesterday, Army troops again occupied the Capoava Refinery in Sao Paulo State, the Mataripe Refinery in Bahia State, and the Alberto Pasqualini Refinery in Rio Grande do Sul State.

This information was supplied by the National Council for Petroleum [CNP]. The CNP did not explain why the refineries were reoccupied.

The refinery in Manaus was occupied for the first time yesterday by federal troops.

In Rio de Janeiro, no agreement was reached between the oil workers of the Duque de Caxias refinery and Petrobras. Another meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday. The oil workers are still demanding that the Army troops withdraw from Petrobras facilities. Petrobras claims that only 5 of its 36 refineries are being protected by the Army.

In Maceio, the 13-day-old maritime workers strike has begun to fail. Loading and unloading activities are almost normal, and last night a ship was completely unloaded.

In Manaus, Aloisio Fraga Rocha, superintendent of the Petrobras refinery, said that there are no indications that the oil workers will join the maritime workers strike. Nevertheless, Marines remain at the port of Manaus, and unloading operations are still slow on some ships.

In statements to the oil workers trade union of the Duque de Caxias Refinery, Labor Minister Almir Pazzianotto stated that only Petrobras can give the Army troops permission to leave the refineries.

The national strikers committee will hold a meeting today to assess and discuss the situation.

Further Report

PY140041 Brazilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Excerpt] The port of Manaus has started normal operations. Early today, port workers started to unload staples from the ships Liverpool and Argentina. After being paralyzed for 12 days, the port of Maceio also started operating normally this morning. Port workers today unloaded wheat, diesel oil, and fertilizers.

In Natal, the Docas do Rio Grande do Norte Company reported that of the three ships that were stranded, two still are.

Meanwhile, in the state of Parana, the Paraguayan Government has offered the Paranagua port administration a 90,000-ton-capacity silo for soybeans. The port of Paranagua has reached its maximum grain storage capacity, and its main vertical silo is full of wheat and soybean.

In Porto Alegre, Luiz Carlos Lopes Moreira, Transport Ministry secretary for international affairs, reported that the port workers strike is causing a daily loss of $2 million for the country. [passage omitted]

Wage Hike; Army Withdrawal

PY141425 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Petrobras has issued a note reporting that Army troops have been withdrawn from all Petrobras refineries throughout the country. The note explains that the withdrawal is a result of the end of the maritime workers strike and the possibility of resuming negotiations with oil tanker crews. The press has reported that a new round of talks between the workers and Petrobras will be held on 18 March.

The Superior Labor Court yesterday granted a 120-percent salary readjustment to the Petrobras maritime workers. The workers also obtained a 150-percent increase in overtime pay, and a 51-percent hike in sea-duty pay.

The Labor Court proceedings lasted 2 hours. Thirty-four of the workers' 84 demands were met. Maritime Workers Union Lawyer Marcos Luis Borges de Rezende said, however, that the workers had hoped that the court would meet more of their demands.

15 Mar Actions Reported

PY152319 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Mar 87 p 38

[Text] The National Union of Navigation Enterprises (Syndarma), which groups private shipowners, has agreed to grant maritime workers a 120-percent salary increase, but the workers have rejected the offer. According to the maritime workers, Syndarma's offer now includes the salary increase that was sought, but it does not accept the other 80 points contained in the document being negotiated. Thus, the real salary increase the workers will receive will only total 100 percent.

The maritime workers have been on strike for 16 days and, according to the National Maritime Workers Mobilization Command, which is installed at the headquarters of the National Union of Engineers of the Merchant Marine in Rio de Janeiro, there are 180 paralyzed vessels in the country's ports. The maritime workers have reached an agreement with four enterprises: Global and Flumar, which run sea-going vessels; and Marvinave and Taquara, which run coastal and river vessels. The workers have returned to work on the 12 vessels of these 4 enterprises. On 13 March the Superior Labor Court approved the 120-percent salary increase for Petrobras workers, who will sign the agreement on 16 March, and for the maritime support enterprises (offshore) [preceding word in English], who did not strike.

The private vessels owners met with the Strike Command of the maritime workers at the offices of the navigation enterprise of Alianca in Rio de Janeiro. They met until 0230 on 14 March, but in view of the fact that the workers will not accept less than a 120-percent increase, no agreement was reached. Only the negotiations of the private sector navigation companies were discussed during this meeting. The state companies Lloyd Brasilero and Docenave, which will also sign the collective agreement with Syndarma, are negotiating separately because they need the approval of the Inter-Ministerial Council of State Salaries for a salary increase for their personnel.

According to Meton Soares Junior, Syndarma's president, "the vessel owners think the negotiations are completely exhausted and they are now waiting for the government to adopt measures so that the law will be obeyed, because the Superior Labor Court has declared the strike illegal.

SARNEY DISCUSSES GOVERNORS-ELECT, STRIKES

PY131754 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] President Sarney today began his "Chatting by the Radio" program by discussing the installation ceremonies of the newly-elected governors to be held next Sunday.

[Begin Sarney recording, in progress] ...I can say that I personally know each one of our governors. Some of them are old friends and all our meetings were imbued with a spirit of renovation, change, hope, and optimism, which should form part of today's public administration in Brazil.

The state celebrations, on the occasion of the installation of the new governors, will be nationwide. We will demonstrate the democratic normalcy of the largest electoral process ever held in this country. The parties freely nominated their candidates. The people elected the governors they wanted. The governors will be installed, and they will choose their secretaries and outline their government programs. This is democratic normalcy.

For my part, as president of the Republic, I am tirelessly working to defend freedom, being energetic whenever it is necessary so that, as I said last Wednesday in Sao Paulo, the thoughtless and the opportunists do not confuse judiciousness for weakness and patience for a lack of decision. [end recording]

Sarney later discussed the stoppages being held throughout Brazil. He asked the trade union leaderships to resort to strikes only when it is truly necessary. Sarney stated that the people should not be depressed by the economic difficulties because they are temporary and will be overcome.

SAUDIS AGREE TO OIL SALE WITH LETTER OF CREDIT

PY140107 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Roberto Franca Domingues, president of the National Oil Council, has reported that the problem with Saudi Arabia has been solved. He said that Saudi Arabia will accept letters of credit from the Banco do Brasil for the purchase of 2.2 million barrels of oil.

LONDONO RESPONDS TO U.S. CRITICISM ON CUBA UN VOTE

PA151853 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1525 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Bogota, 14 Mar (DPA) -- In a statement today, Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes rejected a U.S. complaint that Colombia failed to support a resolution it presented against Cuba at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva. Londono made the statement on the CARACOL Radio network.

According to Londono Paredes, the human rights issue cannot be politicized, and that is why Colombia did not support the U.S. proposal, which was defeated by a 19 to 18 margin.

Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, met in Washington with the ambassadors of Peru, Colombia, Argentina, and Venezuela to complain about their lack of support in condemning Cuba for alleged human rights violations. However, the Colombian foreign minister said that the incident between the two countries does not hinder their relationship. He added that the position of friendship has not changed despite recent positions assumed by the U.S. Government, such as its intransigence on the coffee issue, which led to a break in the coffee pact, something that greatly harmed the economies of several Latin American countries.

Londono Paredes' rejection is in addition to that of his Argentine counterpart, Dante Caputo, who said that "they should not bother us, they should not introduce the East-West conflict into our countries; we already suffered its effects in the seventies."

HEALTH, LABOR MINISTERS, TWO GOVERNORS RESIGN

PA151833 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1740 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Bogota, 15 Mar (EFE) -- The liberal government of President Virgilio Barco faces its first crisis today: The health and labor ministers, as well as two governors, resigned this morning.

Barco arrived at the Narino Palace, the government palace, early this morning and is holding meetings with the two outgoing ministers and with Government Minister Fernando Cepeda Ulloa.

The ministers whose resignations were accepted by President Barco are: Health Minister Cesar Esmeral Barros and Labor Minister Jose Name Teran.

The governors who resigned are: Atlantico Governor Fuad Chad, and Guajira Governor Jairo Alfonso Aguilar Ocando.

The ministerial crisis is a result of recent, strong criticism by the Liberal Party of the work done by the outgoing ministers.

Virgilio Barco's liberal government was inaugurated last August.

FEBRES ANNOUNCES SUSPENSION OF DEBT PAYMENTS

PA132342 Paris AFP in Spanish 2308 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Quito, 13 Mar (AFP) -- This year Ecuador has suspended its payments on the foreign debt to the creditor banks, and "I am not ashamed to say it," President Leon Febres Cordero said this afternoon after having flown by helicopter over the petroleum area of Napo Province, the province most seriously affected by last week's earthquake. "I am not ashamed to tell the world. There is definitely no way we can pay our foreign debt this year," the president added. He had just seen the damage to the oil pipeline that crosses Ecuador where 50 km were destroyed, forcing Ecuador to halt crude oil exports that provide half the country's foreign currency.

Export Suspension Affects All

PA142309 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] In statements to the Colombian Network CARACOL, Ecuadoran Vice president Blasco Penaherrera stated that 9 million Ecuadoreans, the entire country's population, have been affected by the suspension of the petroleum exports resulting from last week's earthquakes. Here are the statements made by Blasco Penaherrera, by telephone from Bogota:

[Begin recording] [Penaherrera] Concerning the number of casualties, they are probably not as numerous as in the Armero tragedy or the Mexican earthquake. Regarding property damage, it is probably about the same. Several important cities such as Ibarra, Cayambe, and Tabacundo were virtually destroyed, and in Quito itself, property damage was tremendous. There is one thing that especially affects us: the damage to the system of production and exploitation of petroleum, because that is our basic export, even with the low prices that we have had to accept this past year. This means that part of the victims [words indistinct] 9 million victims because the future implications of the suspension of petroleum exports for 5 months will be truly catastrophic.

[Reporter] Mr Vice President, special reports from the Napo region state that many thousands of people died and that many houses were destroyed because the landslides covered Indian villages. What can you tell us officially, direct from there?

[Penaherrera] Fortunately, the population in that zone was sparse [words indistinct] so that the number of victims in that area [words indistinct]. [end recording]

More on Economic Measures

PA141505 Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 0158 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Statement by unidentified Ecuadoran Government official; broadcast in progress -- live]

[Text] ... in its entire national history, this is a fact. They do not show the devastation brought about by nature's violence, the destruction of the petroleum system, the dramatic statements of 75,000 vicitims, and press reports, in particular, the heartrending reports we have viewed on television.

Today, the president of the Republic again went to the area most affected by the recent disaster. He inspected the intense work under way -- on occasion, intense and even superhuman rescue, supply, and construction tasks. (?The president) was better able to confirm the overwhelming extent of the damage, the distress of our compatriot victims, the useless million of [word indistinct] that demanded huge expenditures, the breaks caused by nature on our (?ships), and the frustrating paralyzation of the petroleum transportation system.

The first lady also traveled to the disaster area. She, who prevented the country's most precious treasure -- our children -- from contracting serious diseases through [words indistinct], is doing her part to help Napo victims. Mrs Eugenia de Febres Cordero will stay in the region for several days to carry out -- as she knows how to -- her humanitarian mission.

We can say that the government has not rested in its effort to counter the effects of the earthquake. The exceptional nobility of Venezuela and its president, Dr Lusinchi, have made it possible for us to guarantee a minimum amount of needed fuel for domestic consumption. We have been clearing landslides, we are negotiating emergency loans, and we are trying to repair the oil pipeline. In addition, we are collecting clothing, food, and tents. All these things are sent to the victims.

Therefore, we are working; I assure you that we will redouble our efforts. However, 1 week after the tragedy, according to data obtained -- the cold, but indisputable evidence of numbers and figures -- reveal that, without any doubt, Ecuador is currently facing a very trying situation. It is facing two paths, only two paths. Ecuador must choose the one it will follow.

One of them is the path of discouragement and impotence, of immobility and inertia based on a fragile [word indistinct] of tranquillity. To leave things to chance. This path could even win some passing praise for the government. However, this path leads in the very short run to a chaotic situation that would not be limited solely to governmental activities and to provinces affected by the earthquake, but would have an impact on all Ecuadoreans without distinction.

With this path, not only is it true that the government would be unable to pay wages to 300,000 public employees, whose families would face destitution, or wages to 83,000 professors, and be forced to close schools; we might also have to close hospitals as we would not be able to help the victims, and public works would be suspended. It would also not be possible to have the resources to repair the oil pipeline, which is the mainstay of the Ecuadoran economy. Productive sectors would begin to feel negative effects shortly, sales would decrease, unemployment prevail, and we would be overwhelmed with despair.

Therefore, what good would social laws and established rights do without [word indistinct] economy? The other path is the demanding, but promising path of reconstruction and development. It is the path that can only be embarked upon with faith, ardent work, and indestructible solidarity and unity to achieve success in a common objective. It calls for the joint work of all compatriots; the concentration on a sole objective by the nine million hearts of genuine Ecuadoreans.

I must announce that this democratic government has already made a choice. It chose between the two alternatives. Within the framework of anguish felt because of the victims and the urgency of the tasks that must be accomplished, the president of the Republic, the vice president, and the ministers and their assistants have made the necessary analyses, and, based on reality, have adopted the responsible path favoring this and our future generations: the road of reconstruction and development.

This road has several phases, which include the following measures:

First. The suspension of payments on the debt with private foreign banks. Because of the sharp drop in oil prices, Ecuador proposed at the beginning of this year a new refinancing plan to its international creditors. However, the paralyzation in oil exports because of the earthquakes has frozen the arrival of dollars derived from the sale of oil and has forced us to make this suspension, which is a manifestation of the noble and realistic position in line with the national interest President Febres Cordero has maintained and will maintain, I repeat: has maintained and will maintain.

This position has been stated on many occasions. For example, it was stated at the Museum of Congress on 10 August 1986. It was said at that time: Ecuador has the firm will to pay the debt, but in so doing, it will not sacrifice the people. The two elements of this postulate are fully valid now.

The second measure is to firmly defend and conserve Ecuador's fuel. Fuel is like blood that permits the economy to live and to develop. It permits the agricultural, industrial, small industry, mining, and fishery machineries to function. It permits the exploitation of oil itself and the transportation of products for domestic consumption and for export. Therefore, it is impossible to accept that some people may smuggle fuel out of the country just to make money, or that other people will irresponsibly waste it on luxuries that suck Ecuador's blood.

To discourage smuggling by reducing the difference in prices with other countries, to reduce waste, and to produce additional fiscal revenue to compensate for the huge loss of 88 billion sucres as a result of the quakes, we have adopted the following measures:

There will be a new fuel price list. As of tomorrow a gallon of super gasoline will cost 110 sucres, a gallon of extra gasoline will cost 90 sucres, kerosene for domestic use 30 sucres, diesel 55 sucres, residual 35 sucres, and a kilogram of liquid gas, 15 sucres.

Another measure is the new domestic consumption mechanism. In heeding advice from citizens, it has been decided that as of tomorrow, privately owned vehicles that do not provide collective services or services related to production will be able to operate everyday, but are authorized to receive only 10 gallons of gasoline on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays if their license plate number ends in zero or an even number. If the vehicle license plate number ends in an odd number, gasoline can be acquired on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Another measure adopted to defend the national fuel supply will be the patriotic participation of the Armed Forces in the suppression of smuggling. This is based on an order issued by the president of the Republic to the minister of defense, General Medardo Salazar.

The third meeting consists of readjusting transport fares. The readjustment is necessary to compensate for the new fuel prices and to prevent abusive fares such as those reported in recent days. The appropriate organizations, in accord with instructions from the president and the cabinet, have been acting in a strictly objective fashion and have made the smallest possible adjustments. As a result of this, as of tomorrow, buses will charge passengers 10 sucres; special services buses -- with sitting passengers only -- will charge 12 sucres. It is very important to note that bus fares for students have been frozen at the usual 5 sucres rate. Interprovincial and interparish bus fares will increase by 14 percent.

The fourth measure deals with a fundamental issue: The freezing of staple prices.

These measures could lead unscrupulous intermediaries, who are hungry for illegal profits, to make maneuvers such as hoarding products, unjustified price increases, and others. That is, some people could take advantage of the natural disaster to act criminally as described above.

For this reason, the government has just frozen prices on 17 [as heard] groups of staple products. These products are: rice, sugar, cooking oil, brown potatoes, white potatoes, bottled milk, carton milk, eggs, onions, tomatoes, lentils, red beans, white beans, packed cooking lard, salt, wheat flour, cigarettes, soda drinks, unskinned porgy, and school supplies.

It is obvious that the adoption of this measure is necessary, but some people could negatively say that it contradicts the government's theories based on liberty, [word indistinct], and healthy competition; however, there is no contradiction: This government does not exist to dogmatically serve a particular doctrine, but to serve the Ecuadorean people by adopting, at any given moment, whatever measures best defend the general interest. It is obvious that in exceptionally grave moments it is required to adopt exceptional measures.

The fifth measure has to do with an ironfist stance against speculation. A price freeze would be useless if we allow immoral speculatory tendencies. This will not be tolerated. I reiterate the presidential order against speculation.

The governors from throughout the country met on Thursday with the government minister, and they decided on specific tasks to be tackled immediately. I hereby announce that whoever hides or hoards products, hikes prices, or commits any such a crime will be put on trial. The people will be informed on a daily basis about work in this area as well as on whatever strong measures happen to be applied.

The sixth measure deals with severe public expenditures reductions. No Ecuadorean can feel he is excused from contributing his share of sacrifices to overcome the crisis. Aware of this, on Tuesday [10 March] the president ordered a reduction of the funds available to the highest-ranking public officials, beginning with the chief of state himself and including the level of national and general directors of institutions.

I know very well that this measure by itself cannot compensate for the giant drop in fiscal revenue that has resulted from the natural disaster, but this measure is tangible and evident proof that the call for participation in the national effort does not exclude anyone.

The same decree suspended, for the duration of the national emergency, the reclassification and reevaluation of positions, or the creation of public jobs, and closed whatever vacant position existed until that moment. Budget expenditures have been reduced to the maximum the law permits.

In conclusion, the suspension of the payment on the debt with international banks, the defense of Ecuador's oil supplies, transport fare adjustments, and freezing of staple prices, the war to the death against speculation, and the reduction of public expenditures is the road that will save Ecuador from bankruptcy and will take the nation to reconstruction and development. This is the road chosen by the government elected by the people.

This is a government that is aware of the political cost these measures represent, but this government is responsible and serious and will assume the cost because it is also aware of the much more serious social cost, pain, and chaos that would punish the people if the current measures were note adopted in a brave and coordinated fashion. This is the road that all of you, I am certain, will take.

During a visit yesterday to the chapter house of Saint Agustin convent, where our political independence was established, it was impossible not to remember that the Ecuadoran nation was forged in Latin American liberty, that this is a nation of hardworking farmers, inspired builders, unselfish mothers, of young people who rebel against injustice, and a nation of saints and profound thinkers.

A nation such as this defeats adversity. We are now facing our worst natural disaster, and we have known how to take the road of reconstruction and development. No one, nothing will be able to stop us.

Ecuadoreans: Thank you for your civic cooperation. Thank you for your response of cooperation and peace.

Unions Reject Measures

PA150108 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0034 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Quito, 14 Mar (EFE) -- Today labor and political opposition leaders rejected the emergency economic measures adopted by Leon Febres Cordero's regime to counter the crisis caused by the earthquakes that ravaged the country's northeastern sectors last week.

The measures that have received the most criticism from the opposition are a 60 percent increase in fuel prices and a 25 percent increase in public transportation prices.

Fausto Duran, director of the Ecuadoran Central Organization of Classist Organizations (CEDOC) -- one of the major Ecuadoran labor unions -- said that the adoption of emergency measures "reveals the government's complete lack of loyalty to the people."

Duran reasserted the CEDOC's solidarity with those who were affected by the earthquake and added that "the working classes will not let the government avail itself of this catastrophic situation prevailing in the country to impose new economic measures that affect the Ecuadoran people."

The labor leader asserted: "We are willing to organize the necessary actions to prevent this; we are prepared to carry out a national strike, if necessary."

Meanwhile, Rodrigo Borja Cevallos, vice president of the Socialist International and presidential hopeful for the Social Democratic Left Party, accused the government of having "a deficient administration."

Borja said: "You cannot control speculation with a decree, as the government is trying to do," and added that the measures adopted by the government are not the most convenient ones. He advocated "a selective spending of public funds and balanced payments to overcome the crisis."

Likewise, former Ecuadoran President Jaime Roldos said: "President Febres Cordero availed himself of the emergency situation caused by the earthquakes to implement the measures dictated by the IMF."

Budget Revision Considered

PA141338 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] In view of the emergency situation in the country, Domingo Cordovez Perez, minister of finance and credit, has said that it is possible that the national budget might be reorganized to change some public investments, thereby benefiting those sectors that were more severely affected by the earthquakes and floods.

The minister added that this possibility does not at all mean that the economy of the country will be paralyzed; rather, what is involved are some modifications that would rearrange the national budget, in particular, the implementation timeframe. At any rate, he emphasized, there are flexible legal mechanisms that make it possible to manage the budget and revise it so it will be in line with the current situation.

The representatives of the (?economic front) have authorized the Central Bank of Ecuador to make use of an emergency credit of 16 billion sucres to be used by the government in coping with the urgent situation, in view of the lack of petroleum resources. Energy and Mines Minister Javier Espinosa reported that on 26 and 27 March there will be a meeting in Caracas, Venezuela of the Informal Group of Latin American and Caribbean Oil Exporting Countries.

BRIEFS

PRESIDENCY SECRETARY APPOINTED -- The president has issued an executive decree appointing Simon Acosta Espinoza as the new private secretary of the Presidency of the Republic replacing Miguel Orellana. [Summary] [Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Mar 87 PA]

PRESIDENT LUSINCHI STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

PA140143 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1554 GMT 12 Mar 87

[State of the nation address by President Jaime Lusinchi at a joint session of the National Congress in Caracas; live -- monitored in progress]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] We must be alert so as not to be used as unwitting tools by those who invent events or deliberately distort and hide circumstances or causes of incidents. My government is not one to eschew its responsibilities. It is democratically prepared to explain its actions and prove its trustworthiness. However, it cannot [interrupted by applause] accept being charged with tasks that fall solely within the purview of the private sector; cannot engage in irresponsible or unplanned actions; and cannot succumb to the machinations of the plainly wicked imagination of some individuals. [applause]

I have come to the sovereign Congress of the Republic to fulfill my duties, and I assume responsibility for my words. As is its duty, the government pledges to respect and preserve the freedom of expression which has cost us so much to achieve. To strengthen the daily exercise of this freedom in the nation, the state branches, political organizations, news media, intellectuals, and all the community leaders should strive not to distort the truth and to avoid degrading political debates. As part of an honorable pact, we should condemn all those who revel in the dirty slime of slander. [applause]

The exercise of freedom of expression in this country will be guided by the constitutional precepts that guarantee it. Criminal statements will be rejected and punished. This is what the text [of the Constitution] states. This is my simple interpretation. It reflects the widely-shared concept, hence my invitation for us to think together about this topic without fear, prejudice, or weakness that may contradict the democratic spirit of Venezuelans. [passage omitted]

The loftiest national interest requires that we make an operational pact against the self-righteous penetration of political parties and the opportunism of groups without ideological underpinnings to defend genuine political exercise, whether organized or independent. In 1986, Venezuela's historic tradition and political actions became apparent in its constant struggle to achieve regional unity, peace, peaceful solution to disputes, and total support of human rights.

At the start of 1985, I traveled to Cancun, Mexico, to meet with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid. I also went to promote stability of the International Oil Market at a reasonable price level, through constructive dialogue. These views were part of our agenda with other countries in and outside the region.

I went on an official visit to Uruguay, Argentina, and Trinidad and Tobago. I met with the presidents of Brazil and Colombia. All together, the results obtained constitute a tangible expression of my policy of rapprochement and cooperation within the framework of a growing Latin American concertation. In addition, we expressed our commitment to friendship and understanding in the visits to continental Spain, Portugal, and the Canary Islands [as heard]. We can assert that the contacts made served to reinforce and give momentum to our relations with peoples who have very deep ties to ours.

With well-grounded optimism, we have held meetings in Venezuela with the distinguished leaders of friendly nations from our region and elsewhere. We welcomed them within the framework of a policy of rapprochement, an opening which offers many options on the path to friendship and exchange. Thus, the visits by the prime ministers of Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica, Norway, the Netherlands Antilles, and the secretary general of the OAS, are an outstanding chapter of the political and diplomatic events of 1986.

I had the opportunity to attend the inauguration of Colombian President Virgilio Barco and to identify the values we share, including our common relations and 3 decades of democracy. Contacts with that brotherly country, which are substantial and very dynamic because of the vitality of our vast common border, give Venezuelan-Colombian relations the leading, outstanding, and continuing nature that we see expressed in many fields. In this regard, we have promoted a policy of far-reaching talks involving our societies and our institutions. The goal is to maintain the rapprochement between our brother nations, identifying aspects that may and should be a source of understanding, agreement, and cooperation to have harmonious and mutually beneficial relations.

We have strengthened our rapprochement with the Cooperative Republic of Guyana not only through important visits by top government officials, but also through cooperation and the signing of trade agreements. This aspect is particularly important as it reflects the principles of cooperation among developing countries. We are eagerly and cordially awaiting the visit by Guyanese President Desmond Hoyte in a few days. This rapprochement demonstrates the climate of understanding that characterize our relations.

The future work to learn about the peoples of the Caribbean and Central America, and the goal of broadening and reinforcing our ties, serve as a basis for the implementation of cooperation programs. They also serve to communicate our values through Venezuelan culture and cooperation institutes. A strengthening of those relations, which grow stronger every day, will generate greater development of exchange for the benefit of Venezuela and area countries. This will also contribute to our development and progress.

Regarding the Central American conflict, 1986 was a year of pressures and lack of decisions. The Contadora Group, to which Venezuela has belonged for 4 years, and the Support Group, have arduously endeavored to achieve a permanent and just peace in the region. These groups are convinced that support for peace in that strife-torn area is something everybody keenly wants. As an outstanding feature in that untiring struggle for peace in that region, eight foreign ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups, and the secretaries general of the United Nations and the OAS, recently conducted a trip to Central America. This constituted an unprecedented initiative in international relations.

In the December Rio de Janeiro meeting attended by foreign ministers of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay, we agreed to systematize our political effort. This will be achieved through regular consultations to handle matters of common interest. We are sure that this permanent consultation mechanism will yield beneficial results as we review topics that concern us. Moreover, it will reinforce existing institutions in the inter-American sphere as well as our presence in the international arena.

The year 1986, which the United Nations declared the International Year of Peace, coincided with Venezuela's entry into the UN Security Council. Venezuela has contributed to the important search for peaceful solution to conflict, and has supported faithful adherence to international law.

I have seen to it that the country fully assume the economic dimensions of our foreign policies. [sentence as heard] In this regard, more than ever before, we must be creative, raise our trade competitiveness abroad, and rightly ponder the future of integration. The country has seen these features as the solid basis for the industrialization of other continents which resemble our situation and circumstances.

Our land, rivers, and sea borders are [words indistinct] of integral development. They are the first priority of my government. I have always felt that in this field we have a long-standing debt to the founders of our nation. During my term in office I have visited the border areas. I have personally been able to learn about their situation, needs, and great possibilities. In this regard, the ministries and government agencies have been expressly ordered to assign preferential treatment to these areas. We need to give them the adequate infrastructure to populate and definitively incorporate them into the country's development without any restrictions. We are working toward this goal. The [words indistinct] essential. [applause]

I must single out the Armed Forces. The Republic has entrusted them with the task of protecting our territorial and national sovereignty. The Armed Forces play an active role along our borders. They do not merely engage in patrolling actions, but instead, they are conducting an important development task that will contribute to the establishment of a [word indistinct] basis so as to consolidate a national policy of major incentives. [passage omitted]

FIRST OIL SHIPMENT TO ECUADOR TO BEGIN

PA131635 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] The Ecuadoran ship that will carry the first shipment of Venezuelan oil to Ecuador this weekend should arrive at a Zulia port today or tomorrow.

The 300,000 barrels of this first shipment will make our aid to Ecuador a reality, and will assist with the emergency that has resulted from Friday's earthquake. This measure was approved at a Council of Ministers meeting yesterday.

Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti said the Venezuelan aid will consist of a loan for 5 million barrels of oil to be delivered over 2 months. With this oil, Ecuador will meet its internal needs. Ecuadoran Deputy Energy Minister Fernando Santos said that Ecuador requested this loan so it could meet its export commitments.

Hernandez Grisanti explained that this loan will be granted without affecting the production quota OPEC has assigned Venezuela. Instead, it will be subtracted from the Ecuadoran quota. The loan will be reimbursed in August when our country will be able to produce, in addition to its quota, the oil granted to Ecuador. In this way our country is helping Ecuador in the face of the earthquake that destroyed its oil installations.

The Ecuadoran deputy energy minister is meeting with Petrovan and Energy and Mines Ministry officials to determine the conditions for the loan agreement between Petroven and the Ecuadoran Petroleum Corporation.

DEFENSE SECRETARY ON ANTIDRUG CAMPAIGN

FL130350 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2154 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Mar, (NOTIMEX) -- National Defense Secretary Juan Arevalo Gardoqui, today briefed President Miguel de la Madrid on the progress made in the country's fight against drug harvesting and trafficking.

Arevalo Gardoqui informed him that during the last few days 1,181 marijuana and 3,444 poppy fields were destroyed within 349 hectares. The staff of the Canador Plan participated in these operations in the entire country and the Mars Group participated in them in the States of Sinaloa and Chihuahua. He said that during these actions, 245 people involved in drug trafficking were detained and turned over to the authorities. Some 399 weapons of various calibers were seized.

BRIEFS

DRUG SMUGGLERS DETAINED -- Miguel Aleman, Mexico 7 Mar -- Judicial Police agents have detained two drug smugglers who were staying at an abandoned building on one of the Rio Bravo Islands, where they kept marijuana and later sent to the United States. Fabian or Diego Martinez and Adan Carlos Segura were detained as they traveled in a Chevrolet pickup truck with Texas license plates, where marijuana residues were found. They confessed that they were hiding the drug in an abandoned building at the Isla de las Guerras township, a Miguel Aleman City municipality. The agents found 125 kilos of marijuana and many tire inner tubes that were used to send the weed to U.S. territory by letting them float on the Rio Bravo. The two alleged drug smugglers and the drugs were turned over to a Federal Judicial Ministry agent of the northeastern Mexican State of Tamaulipas. They were accused of crimes against health under possession and distribution of drugs. [Text] [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2349 GMT 7 Mar 87 FL]

NARCOTIC TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED -- Mexicali, 4 Mar -- Federal Judicial Police agents seized here today approximately 49.5 kg of pure cocaine, worth approximately 90 billion pesos on the U.S. black market. Mexicali Police Commander Hector Sandoval Ortega reported that four drug traffickers -- Jaime Alfredo Rocio Munoz Cana, Jose Antonio Ibarra Espinosa, Jesus Macias Alcantara, and Leopoldo Urrea -- were arrested in connection with the action. [Summary] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 5 Mar 87 pp 1, 3 PA]

COCAINE, MARIJUANA SEIZED -- In Rosarito, Baja California Norte, the police detained nine drug traffickers and seized 600 kg of pure cocaine and 1 ton of marijuana. The drug followed the Colombia-Oaxaca-Jalisco-Baja California Route. The gang, headed by Juan Ornela Flores, had been operating for several years. [Summary] [Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 12 Mar 87 PA]

DELVALLE NOT 'AFRAID' OF ECONOMIC CRISIS

PA130442 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Mar 87 p 32

[Text] Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle told the media yesterday that he "is not afraid of the crisis," and he immediately explained that his administration has managed to change the deflationary trend of the economy.

The president made the statement when several press and radio reporters approached him to learn how he feels concerning the rumors that are circulating through political circles here.

I think, Delvalle said, that we are already emerging from the crisis, and in the last 2 years we have had a 100 percent economic recovery.

An unpleasant incident took place when the men guarding the president pushed reporters Lerna Llerena from QUIBO and Elikiria Santos from Radio KW Continent, whom they had warned not to ask the president any embarrassing questions.

PRESIDENT BACKS ARIAS C.A. PEACE PROPOSAL

PA140247 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0020 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] David, Panama, 13 Mar (DPA) -- Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle today backed Costa Rican President Oscar Arias' peace proposal. The Costa Rican president arrived in David today to meet with Delvalle.

In the meeting, they discussed the Central American situation and the U.S. Senate's support yesterday, with 97 of the 100 possible votes, of the peace proposal that Arias outlined in San Jose on 15 February when the Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Honduran, and Salvadoran presidents met.

Arias and Delvalle also considered the Contadora and Support Groups' backing of Arias' proposal. DPA was told that Delvalle voiced support for the Costa Rican president's proposal. According to Delvalle, this proposal "agrees with the Contadora Group's principles." (Panama is a member of the Contadora Group and in fact functions as its secretary.)

The two presidents considered the latest events in Central America and regretted "the hardening of the relations between Nicaragua and Honduras." They also commented on the coming Central American presidents meeting in Esquipulas on 25 April.

In the Arias-Delvalle meeting, the drug trafficking problem and Panama's and Costa Rica's struggle against it was also considered.

In the bilateral field, the most important topics discussed were trade between the two countries and the possibility of executing a special program at the Paso Canoas border area, where about 10,000 Panamanians and 6,000 Costa Ricans live.

The presidents also talked about education at the border area and the need for joint Costa Rican and Panamanian programs for the region's school children. After the meeting was over, the presidents opened the "International Industrial Fair of David" in a colorful musical ceremony.

After the opening, Delvalle and Arias walked the fair for more than 1 hour and later attended a private dinner at Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia's home in David.

Tomorrow, President Arias will have breakfast with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces, FDP. This breakfast will also be attended by Costa Rican Public Security Minister Hernan Garron Salazar. A special ceremony to honor Costa Rica will be held tomorrow at the international fair prior to President Arias' departure.

Panamanian Foreign Minister Abadia and Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto met separately to analyze the region's situation and the outcome of the latest Contadora meeting in Montevideo. Both Abadia and President Delvalle "showed interest in Costa Rica's peace proposal."

Electrical Interconnection

PA160010 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Reported by Milagro Espinosa from David, Panama]

[Text] Good evening. This afternoon after 1630, Costa Rica time, President Oscar Arias Sanchez participated in the ceremony to formalize the electrical interconnection between Panama and Costa Rica in the community of Progreso and in David. The president was accompanied by his Panamanian counterpart, Eric Arturo Delvalle. Other participants were the foreign ministers of the two countries and several Costa Rican deputies who were in the Costa Rican delegation.

Teofilo de la Torre, executive president of the Costa Rican Electricity Institute [ICE], spoke on behalf of our country. He talked about the development of Costa Rica's electrical system and the production of energy for Honduras, Nicaragua, and now for Panama. He recalled that several years went by before it was understood that the electrical interconnection of Central America is of benefit to all. De la Torre emphasized the good relations existing between ICE and its Panamanian counterpart, the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification, IRHE. The two countries contributed $11 million each to the project.

After the ceremony Presidents Arias and Delvalle flew in a helicopter to downtown David, where Arias will inaugurate the David Fair in a few minutes. He will tour the fairgrounds in the company of President Delvalle. After the ceremony, a toast will be made at the diplomatic room of the fair and Dr Arias and some of the members of his retinue will have dinner at the house of Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia.

President Arias' agenda for tomorrow includes a breakfast early in the morning with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Defense Forces of Panama, at the Fiesta del Sol Hotel where he will be staying. Then a ceremony will be held in honor of Costa Rica at the diplomatic room of the David Fair.

COSTA RICA

ARIAS 'PLEASED' WITH SHULTZ PEACE PLAN REACTION

PA131359 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1220 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] President Oscar Arias Sanchez has said that efforts should be made by both U.S. Republicans and Democrats to agree on a Central American policy. This would unite the U.S. Government and people, Arias commented, adding that it will be difficult to achieve peace so long as such a heated struggle continues between Republicans and Democrats.

The president was pleased with George Shultz' statements in favor of the peace proposal. He said that the support and solidarity of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz for the peace proposal is favorable to the country. He said also that his peace plan harms no one; on the contrary, it seeks to achieve a balance in the region.

Arias expressed pleasure over the support his proposal has received during the past few days in South and Central American countries as well as in Europe.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES STATEMENT ON UNO ACTIVITIES

PA132237 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 9 Mar 87 p 42

[Text] Yesterday the government issued a statement noting that the members of the Nicaraguan rebel group, Nicaraguan Opposition Unity, UNO, can have asylum in Costa Rica, allowing them to enjoy political freedom but it does not allow them to use or promote the use of force or violence.

The following is a text of this declaration:

Declaration of the government of the Republic on the Nicaraguan Opposition Unity (UNO)

The president of the Republic and the minister of foreign relations and worship met in the Presidential House to analyze recent UNO activities. They noted that according to what was stated by the UNO board of directors on 4 March in the city of Miami, that organization, which until now has been of a political and civic nature, will be controlling and using funds designated for the rebels who operate militarily against the established regime in Nicaragua.

In this case UNO would place itself outside the exclusively political space that Costa Rican laws grant to those who cannot be free in their native countries.

Some important leaders of that Nicaraguan political organization currently have asylum in Costa Rica, a fact that is well known here and abroad, and therefore if these leaders establish direct or indirect ties with the armed struggle in Nicaragua they will not be able to remain in Costa Rica because such ties would be in violation of Costa Rican laws and would go against the peace efforts being promoted by the government.

In view of the new situation created by the UNO resolution, the government has decided that the minister of foreign relations and worship is to call the UNO Nicaraguan leaders who live in Costa Rica so that UNO will fully guarantee that no activity related with military actions or the financing of such actions will be carried out in national territory.

As a first step they will be ordered not to hold any kind of meeting in Costa Rica understanding that if they do not comply they will have their political asylum status suspended and will have to leave Costa Rica immediately.

By making this decision, Costa Rica safeguards its respect for the institution of asylum, which grants refugees freedom of action, in the political sense, but which prohibits the use or promotion of the use of force or violence in respect for the state serving as sanctuary.

ARIAS TO SEND DELEGATION TO MANAGUA ON PROPOSAL

PA132302 Paris AFP in Spanish 2219 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] San Jose, 13 Mar (AFP) -- Costa Rican President Oscar Arias said today that he will send a Costa Rican delegation to Nicaragua next week "to find out what the Nicaraguan Government thinks" about the Arias peace initiative for Central America.

Prior to departing for Panama City at 1430, the president said: "We will get in touch with Managua prior to the president's meeting in Esquipulas, Guatemala, so that this sounding-out mission can ascertain what the Sandinists think about the peace proposal."

Arias asserted: "Our proposal offers a perfect bridge, so to speak, to Nicaragua to end violence and achieve peace." He also said that the U.S. Senate's support for his peace initiative yesterday "constitutes a landmark because Costa Rica's position has been established for posterity."

Arias presented this plan in San Jose and on 15 February to Presidents Vinicio Cerezo of Guatemala; Jose Azcona of Honduras, and Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador. It was agreed to present it to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega in Esquipulas prior to 16 May.

Among other things, the proposal includes a plan for an internal reconciliation process; amnesty for political crimes and dialogue between governments and "unarmed" political groups in those countries with armed struggle; a simultaneous cease-fire; suspension of the foreign military aid for unconventional forces, and elections according to the periods established in the constitution of each of the countries to foster democratization in the region.

Arias asserted: "If there is a Latin American country with the moral authority to talk about democracy for the rest of Central America, that country is Costa Rica. We are waiting for Managua's reaction, because they have yet to issue a statement about our proposal."

He added: "We will really have to exert ourselves in Esquipulas because the last word will definitely be said by Managua on one side and Washington on the other." He explained: "If we reach an agreement, all military aid to the contras, as well as to the Salvadoran guerrillas, must be suspended. Everyone's sincerity will be tested."

Arias, who went to Panama for a meeting with Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle, said: "We are not asking Nicaragua to move up its elections. We only talked about pluralism for Central America and equal opportunities for all the political parties."

He underscored: "If some kind of freedom of press is restored in Nicaragua with an amnesty, certain leaders in exile could return to Nicaragua."

The president praised the fact that "the Contadora and Support Groups pledged to support the Costa Rican peace proposal, because this involves all the Central American countries."

Meanwhile, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal said that the U.S. Senate's support is an "unequivocal" message to seek Nicaragua's democratization, because "the two groups believe that this may be attained in a reasonable amount of time. The paln is subject to adjustments and modifications, according to the countries' domestic interests, because it is prepared on a constructive basis."

PRESIDENT SHOWS 'INDIGNATION' ON LANDING STRIP USE

PA140318 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0242 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] David, Panama, 13 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Costa Rican President Oscar Arias today showed "indignation" over the possibility that the United States Government used a Costa Rican landing strip to supply guns to the contras.

Arias, who met at this border city with Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle, said during a joint press conference that Costa Rica will find out whether this landing strip "was used with Washington's consent."

The report of the Tower Commission, which investigated the scandal of diverting funds from the sale of arms to Iran to the contras, has disclosed that the Guanacaste landing strip was used in June 1985 to supply arms to the anti-Sandinists.

After assuming office in May of that year Arias "explicitly" told Lewis Tambs, then U.S. ambassador, that the Costa Rican territory would not be used to back subversive groups.

Arias said: "It was grievous for me to learn from the Tower report that the strip had been used during my term."

The president also said that his foreign minister will shortly send a note to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz requesting an explanation of the incident.

The president said further: "We are very angry that the strip has been used behind the back of the Costa Rican Government."

He added: If the United States knew of this operation, "we will send our protest through diplomatic channels."

The president denied that his government was pressured by the United States into modifying its neutrality policy, although he admitted to "disagreements" between the two countries regarding Central American affairs.

"We do not believe in war or in violence, and we want a peaceful solution," he emphasized.

Referring to the regional peace proposal presented to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras at the presidential "summit" held on 15 February, Arias said that this is not a plan "against Nicaragua, but a plan in favor of peace."

The draft calls for a cease-fire in the countries where there are military conflicts, an interruption of the assistance to the "contras," negotiations among the government and the opposition movements, and democratic situations that will culminate with free elections.

This plan will be discussed among all the Central American presidents at a new "summit" be held at Esquipulas, Guatemala, and this time with the participation of Nicaragua.

Prior to the meeting, Arias said that it would be necessary "to increase informal contacts (with Nicaragua) in order to guarantee" the success of the meeting.

President Eric Arturo Delvalle emphasized that Panama was the first country to say it was very pleased over the peace proposal presented by Costa Rica, because it includes many of the initiatives of the Contadora Group, of which Panama is a member.

The two presidents dedicated tonight the David International Fair, the most important commercial activity between the two countries.

Before returning tomorrow morning to Costa Rica, Arias will have breakfast with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the chief of the Panama Defense Forces. David is a city near the Panama-Costa Rican border, 438 km from Panama City.

Arias is accompanied by Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto and Public Security Minister Hernan Garron Salazar. Delvalle arrived accompanied by most of his cabinet.

EL SALVADOR

DUARTE DISCUSSES USE OF U.S.-DONATED FUNDS

PA151856 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Report by Marco Antonio Guevara from San Miguel]

[Excerpts] On Thursday, President Jose Napoleon Duarte announded in San Miguel the establishment of a fund of 225 million colones donated by the United States. The fund will be used to reactivate the economy of the eastern area.

Duarte said that this is part of an economic aid program to guarantee investment in the agro-industrial and business sectors through soft credits channelled through the financial system. U.S. Ambassador Edwin Corr, a large governmental delegation, and top military leaders of San Miguel and Usulutan were present during the announcement ceremony. [passage omitted]

Duarte asked production sectors of the eastern area to meet next week to seek the mechanisms to ensure that this money will reach all sectors needing it. He asked two things from them: that they use the credits for work and to generate employment, and that they make timely payments so this can become a permanent fund.

[Begin Duarte recording] This project is part of a united effort that we Salvadorans are carrying out to reconstruct the country, to support the effort being made by our Armed Forces to guarantee freedom and justice in our country, to strengthen democracy, and to ensure that differences are not overcome with violence or bloodshed, but with reason. [end recording]

In addition to calling on the subversive forces to incorporate themselves into the democratic process, President Duarte pointed out that the credits made available today in the country's eastern area are for everyone, even for his enemies. They are for large and small businesses, and have the goal of reactivating that part of the country, he said.

FMLN REPORTS RELEASE OF TWO MAYORS, WARNS OTHERS

PA151435 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1408 GMT 15 Mar 87

[FMLN communique dated in El Salvador, 13 March]

[Text] The FMLN reports the following:

At 1800 on Friday, 13 March, Benjamin Cruz and Atilio Ayala, the mayors of San Francisco Javier and San Augustin Tres Calles who were being held as POW's by the FMLN were released and delivered to Msgr Cabrera, bishop of Santiago de Maria.

Mayors Benjamin Cruz and Atilio Ayala were captured and held prisoner while the FMLN was investigating their participation in the antiguerrilla plans, in the United To Rebuild Plan, in the organization of Civil Defense bands, spying networks, and repressive actions against the civilian population.

We reiterate our call to the mayors of the Christian Democratic regime to refrain from becoming involved in the antiguerrilla plans. To the mayors of towns located in conflict zones, we reiterate our determination not to permit the functioning of local governments. Those who persist in their attempts to establish such governments will be captured by our forces.

Revolution or death, we will win!
[Signed] FMLN, El Salvador, 13 March 1987

GUATEMALA

CEREZO CONFIRMS 30-31 MARCH VISIT TO NICARAGUA

PA132126 Paris AFP in Spanish 0247 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 12 Mar (AFP) -- Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo today confirmed that he will visit Nicaragua on 30 and 31 March to analyze with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega the peace plan for Central America proposed by Costa Rica.

During a brief unplanned news conference at the National Palace, the Guatemalan president accused the local extreme right of trying to destabilize his government with "well-known" tactics, but he denied that the Army is preparing a coup d'etat.

Regarding his visit to Managua, Cerezo said: "I will inform my Nicaraguan colleague about the peace plan presented to us by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias. We will also talk about the forthcoming Central American presidential summit to take place in Esquipulas on 15 May." [passage omitted]

Cerezo has said that his trip to Manaagua is important because he will be able to listen to "the other side of the coin."

He said he is sure that "Nicaragua also wants peace in the region" and this is why Ortega has agreed to participate in the second Esquipulas summit meeting. The first one took place on 25 May 1986.

Cerezo today accused the local extreme right of trying to destabilize his government with "well-known tactics."

He noted: "They are threatening people because of their political views and are using other tactics to intimidate the population. No one must be afraid of having any kind of ideology, as long as the law is respected."

A supposedly new rightist organization called "Democratic Rectifying Movement" this week threatened 25 people for being "communists," and 18 of these people are government officials.

The president noted: "This is the traditional attitude of the right, which has not gotten used to showing respect for the will of the people."

Cerezo denied that the Guatemalan Army is preparing a coup d'etat. He noted: "Anyone thinking about a coup would be an absolute fool."

HONDURAS

ARMED FORCES ISSUE REPORT ON DOWNED PLANE

PA140242 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Report by Adolfo Hernandez]

[Text] Today military sources officialy reported that three Guatemalans and one North American died in the DC-3 plane shot down on Monday by the Honduran Air Force.

An Armed Forces communique stated that the North American pilot Joseph Bernard Mason has a long criminal record in the United States because of his involvement in drug trafficking.

The DC-3 airplane, a civilian version of the C-47 military airplane, had flown from Colombia following the general route that other planes of this type have used in the past when transporting forbidden cargo, the bulletin states. The plane had U.S. registration N49454, and the United States is investigating the plane's participation in the transport of drugs from South America.

Contrary to initial reports which mentioned three crewmemebers, the official communique states that there were four -- the North American Mason and three Guatemalan citizens.

The coroner's department handed over three body bags, which presumably contained the remains of three bodies, but the Armed Forces had already said that human remains were scattered in the area where the plane crashed near the border with El Salvador.

Sources from the coroner's department said that the identities of the victims could not be confirmed by examining the bodies because of the state they were in.

Javier Medina, Guatemalan deputy Civil Aeronautics director, said yesterday that the plane was manned by Mason and (Freddy Galeazeato), the latter also a North American. On Monday (Galeazeato) had requested authorization in Guatemala to conduct a test flight over Guatemala because the plane was being sold. Guatemala did not report whether or not the men had presented ownership papers.

There have been many different opinions on this accident. First it was said that the plane was Nicaraguan and that it supplied Salvadoran guerrillas; then it was said that it was a Soviet plane; after that it was said that it was Colombian and that it carried Pablo Escobar, one of the great Medellin Mafia leaders whose gang has been partially disbanded by the DEA. After that, it was said that the plane was Guatemalan, and that it had left Guatemala, and this is the latest version so far. Here is the official version. I am going to leave you with Carlos Matute, who will make the presentation:

[Begin Matute recording] This is a U.S. passport with the photo of Joseph Bernard Mason. The passport was issued in the United States, and it expires in February 1995. This is the photograph of the pilot of the plane that suffered the accident [as received] on 9 March 1987. The passport has his signature -- it is burned in certain places -- and has the name Colonel Joseph Mason. This is his license, [not further identified] and it has blood stains on it. On this side you can see all his personal details. This is a U.S. Merchant Marine license. In other words, this man was also a U.S. merchant seaman. In some photos he appears with a moustache, in others without. He would have been 51 years old on 13 March. This is a Massachussetts Merchant Marine certificate from the United States. It says he was single and had no children. It gives his Miami address. This is the other document he had with him on 9 March.. [end recording]

Dear viewers, with these last pictures we end our coverage on this incident. The spokesmen from the Armed Forces showed all the documentation that was found in the place where the plane was shot down. The airplane had no official registry because in the United States they say that the registry does not belong to any person or company. Apparently Joseph Bernard Mason was an Air Force colonel, attached to the Marines [as received] as these documents show, but having the criminal record Mason has in the United States, and being a drug trafficker, one cannot trust that these documents are legitimate. What we do know is that he was a Vietnam veteran, but his rank is not known. The passports photo is very different from the ones taken while in the U.S. Army.

These views give a clear picture of the version that the Armed Forces Public Relations Office gave the national and international press; particularly the U.S. press, which was very interested in identifying the mercenary pilot.

GOVERNMENT REJECTS NICARAGUAN PROTEST OVER ATTACK

PA131721 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] The Honduran Foreign Ministry today rejected Nicaragua's protest over alleged hostilities on the border, saying that it is unfounded. In his response to the Nicaraguan foreign minister, Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras said that in-depth investigations proved Honduran troops have not participated in any attack on Sandinist troops stationed at the observation post on El Palito Hill in Chinandega Department.

The Honduran response also denies Nicaragua's allegation that Honduran troops fired 81 mm mortars at the Lomas de Malinche sector, 4 km southeast of Santo Tomas del Nance in Chinandega. The Honduran foreign minister told D'Escoto, among other things, that it is very strange the Nicaraguan Government is trying to involve the Honduran Government in actions that go beyond Honduras' borders.

ARMY RELEASES AMERICANS HELD FOR ESPIONAGE

PA131814 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1505 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The police reported today that on Wednesday the Honduran Army released two Americans who confessed they were spying for the Nicaraguan Government.

American citizens Joshua N. Karliner and Dave Henson were captured last weekend when they were taking pictures of the air base at El Aguacate in eastern Olancho Department, on the Nicaraguan border.

The Nicaraguan Government and the U.S. news media have stated that the air base is normally used to send supplies to the anti-Sandinist troops operating from Honduras.

According to the police, the Americans confessed that they were guilty of espionage, and they were released when the U.S. Consulate intervened on their behalf.

Karliner and Henson also received support from the Honduran Ecology Association, the organization they had infiltrated to carry out their espionage activities, according to the Honduran military authorities.

An organization spokesman told the news media today that the Americans are currently working to promote the first Central American ecological conference.

The conference is scheduled for 13-16 May in Managua, Nicaragua, under the sponsorship of several world and regional organizations which work in the ecological field.

The same source said that the Americans were accompanied by several Hondurans and they were going to inspect the biosphere in Rio Platano -- located between Olancho, Colon, and Gracias a Dios Departments -- when they accidentally stopped in front of the air base at El Aguacate and used their cameras without knowing it was forbidden to take pictures.

The mission was comprised of eight persons but the Army only arrested the two Americans, who were thoroughly questioned in Olancho and Tegucigalpa.

The Honduran ecology association asserts that the two Americans traveled to El Salvador yesterday, where they will continue to promote the conference that will be held in Managua. The Honduran organization also stated that it does not have any political links with national or international organizations.

NICARAGUA

CONTRAS REPORT DOWNING OF SANDINIST MI-24 HELICOPTER

PA140339 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 13 Mar (DPA) -- The Nicaraguan contras today reported having shot down a second Sandinist MI-24 helicopter. According to the rebels, this is the second aircraft shot down in less than a week.

The anti-Sandinists' radio confirmed that the helicopter was shot down on Wednesday, 11 March, with a SAM-7 missile in Las Martinas village, Central Zelaya Department, 40 km from Matagalpa.

On 5 March, the rebels shot down a Soviet-made MI-24 with a SAM-7 missile, which is also made by the Soviets, the rebel radio station reported.

The anti-Sandinists said that their "Musan" task force led by Commander Emiliano was in charge of the operation of shooting down the Sandinist helicopter. The radio station pointed out that the helicopter shot down on Wednesday brings the number of helicopters shot down in a 8-month period to six.

CESAR VIEWS REORGANIZATION OF RESISTANCE FORCES

PA131323 Paris AFP in Spanish 1030 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] San Jose, 13 Mar (AFP) -- Anti-Sandinist leader Alfredo Cesar stated today that President Ronald Reagan's contras "had been buried" by the resignation of Arturo Cruz from the board of directors of the Nicaraguan Opposition Unity (UNO), and that now, the United States "will have to support a new democratic and independent resistance."

Cesar, the top leader of the Southern Opposition Bloc (BOS), the second most important anti-Sandinist force, said he is sure that Cruz "resigned so that UNO would collapse," thus making the formation of a new Nicaraguan resistance possible. Cesar told AFP that Cruz "wanted to resign from UNO for a long time ago for political and personal reasons." He recalled that 3 weeks ago Cruz had withdrawn a previous resignation because of U.S. Government promises that it would support the reforms he wanted.

The BOS leader noted: "I do not know what promises Elliott Abrams made to him, but one thing is certain: Something happened and the promises were not fulfilled." Cesar added: Cruz "must have received some call or discovered something that made him understand that Abrams' promises would not be fulfilled. He then resigned rather than let himself be used."

Cesar insisted that with the Cruz resignation "UNO and the contras sponsored by Reagan are finished, and now it is necessary to create a new resistance movement that must overcome all the grave errors committed in the past few years."

Cesar admitted that the various Nicaraguan opposition sectors, including BOS and MISURASATA [Miskito, Sumu, Rama, Sandinist Unity] are continuously meeting in search of a new unity agreement. He said: "This week we have met with the UNO board of directors and MISURASATA for more than 15 hours and we are also talking with the FDN leaders."

Regarding the participation of the FDN -- which until now has been the most important contra military force, and which is commanded by former Somozist guards -- in the reorganization of the anti-Sandinist forces, Cesar said: "They will also have a place in the new resistance."

Cesar noted: "The FDN has the right to participate in this process not only because this process is not an exclusionary one, but also because important political and military changes are taking place within that group." Cesar suggested that FDN chief Adolfo Calero, who was recently "purged" from UNO, "is undergoing a process of rebellion against the North Americans," something that makes the new unity project more viable.

He said: "The Reagan administration actually wanted Calero to step out of the struggle, but he did not accept that and is now seeking, from the FDN, new paths of participation." Cesar stated: "Many internal changes have taken place in the FDN in the last month, and its military actions are no longer being coordinated with U.S. authorities." He noted: "I do not know what the final outcome of the FDN process will be, but I am certain that the FDN has begun to function without consulting Washington. Not only that, it has adopted an openly rebellious position, such as that of not accepting the total withdrawal of Calero."

Cesar said that as a result of the Irangate scandal, Reagan "has had to remove key officials who were only able to envisage Washington-subjected contras." He added: "At the National Security Council, Carlucci thinks very differently than Poindexter did, and the man who may replace Casey at the CIA also has a different point of view." In this context, Cesar commented that Reagan will have to "swallow" the contras' failure and support the new organization that will emerge from an initiative by the Nicaraguans themselves.

Cesar concluded by stating that "if the negotiations continue to go well," in 2 weeks we will have "the new Nicaraguan democratic resistance that will emerge from the ashes of the contras."

GOVERNMENT SEEKS CONTADORA HELP ON BORDER 'ATTACKS'

PA142125 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Mar 87 p 4

[Letter sent by the government, signed by Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco, to the Contadora and Support Groups; dated in Managua on 12 March]

[Text] Managua, Nicaragua,

12 March 1987

Mr Minister:

I address Your Excellency to express the concern of the people and Government of Nicaragua regarding the recent systematic attacks carried out by the Honduran Armed Forces against Nicaraguan civilian towns.

As a result of the artillery attacks that began on 5 March, actions that have been verified by local and foreign correspondents, four people have died. Among the dead are three children. Eight other persons were injured.

On 5 March, border guardsman Efrain Pichardo was wounded during the shelling, from Honduras, of El Palito border post, Chinandega Department. A few hours later, Evaristo Garcia, Omar Canales, and Antonia Delgado, all civilians, were wounded at the Vado Ancho border post, located 80 meters from the border.

On 6 March at 1225, Honduran 11th Infantry Battalion soldiers used 180 mm mortars to shell the Nicaraguan area known as La Chocolata and Santo Tomas del Nance, Chinandega Department. Approximately 1,400 people live in this area. A total of 40 shells fell on civilian homes in Santo Tomas del Nance. Several persons were injured.

At the same time, soldiers of the 4th Artillery Battalion of the Honduran National Guard were deployed to the area known as La Pina, Honduras.

On 8 March other artillery attacks were carried out against the Santo Tomas and El Portin border post.

On 9 March, 11th Infantry Battalion soldiers repeatedly shelled the same town with 120 mm mortars. As a result of this attack the following children were killed: 14-year-old Gustavo Rodriguez, 13-year-old Dennis Hernandez, 16-year-old Juan de Dios Martinez. Adan Varla Uroz, a 20-year-old EPS soldier, was also killed during the attack. Soldier Marvin Antonio Aquino Mendez was seriously wounded.

I must mention to Your Excellency that during each of the shellings, Honduran troops were supported by Honduran Air Force helicopters and planes.

These incidents cannot be separated from the statements made by the U.S. Defense Department regarding the deployment of 750 U.S. soldiers. This was done "without previous warning" and within the framework of Honduran-U.S. military maneuvers being held in March.

In face of this situation, the EPS has decided to withdraw its troops from the aforementioned towns and evacuate the civilians in an attempt to prevent the U.S. and Honduran Armies provocations from further worsening the situation.

The Nicaraguan Government has presented a strong and formal protest before the Honduran Government in face of these aggressions and has also asked for an indepth investigation into these incidents.

Since a satisfactory answer has not been received, my government, through this letter, formally requests of the Contadora and Support Groups the appointment of an investigative commission so that it may carry out the necessary actions as soon as possible to prevent the continuation of this escalation of attacks against the Nicaraguan people. These attacks could unleash stronger actions.

[Signed] Respectfully,

Victor Hugo Tinoco, Acting Foreign Minister

JOINT 'MERCENARY' FORCES; U.S. EXERCISES REPORTED

PA131615 Managua International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Military sources in Tegucigalpa have reported that the mercenary forces are conducting several military exercises aimed at improving mobilizations and emergency deployments. The exercises, which began yesterday, will last until 25 March. Some 750 U.S. troops of the 7th Infantry Division, headquartered in Fort Ord, California, will participate.

In addition to the emergency deployments, U.S. and Honduran troops are participating in joint exercises called "Vicente Tosca." These exercises will end in May.

OPPOSITION PARTY FIGURE ON MEETING WITH HABIB

PA131622 Managua International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Mauricio Diaz, secretary general of the opposition Popular Social Christian Party, today demanded that the Reagan administration stop its policy of war against Nicaragua and seek peace through understanding.

In remarks to the morning newspaper BARRICADA, Diaz referred to the meeting he recently held in San Jose, Costa Rica, with Philip Habib, the special U.S. envoy to Central America. Diaz, who is also the vice president of the Nicaraguan Assembly, said he told Habib that the U.S. Government is mistaken in its policy toward Nicaragua because war only results in serious consequences for the people.

BANK PRESIDENT DENIES VOA REPORT ON DEBT

PA131727 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] The U.S. Administration is trying to involve the international financial community in a political maneuver against Nicaragua by spreading the rumor that 150 international banks are creating a committee of creditors to confiscate our country's property. Since 1980, a foreign debt renegotiating committee has existed, says Dr Joaquin Cuadra, minister-president of the Central Bank.

Cuadra Chamorro fully denied the report broadcast by the VOA and commented that "countries in debt such as Brazil, Argentina, and Peru should be alarmed by this report because it could set an ominous precedent that could seriously endanger the international banks' financial interests; that is, if this merely political report were true."

Nicaragua has been careful to adopt precautionary measures that to some extent protect the country's economic interests, the official added, without breaking commercial relations with the banks.

The president of the Central Bank emphasized that in December 1979 Nicaragua initiated renegotiation with its creditors with an unprecedented meeting in Mexico. He also denied the debt with the international banks is $3.7 million, as the VOA stated. He said that originally the debt was $821,057,000 of which $180,937,000 has been paid. Despite this, the debt increased to $1.2 billion because of the capitalization of delayed interest payments.

This is one reason why it is said that the Third World will never be able to pay its foreign debt. He added that Nicaragua has continued to propose solutions to the U.S. blockade and boycott at international organizations.

REGIONAL MINISTERS FAVOR ORTEGA COFFEE INITIATIVE

PA142120 Managua International Service in Spanish 2350 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Today in Managua the economy ministers of Central American stated their support for Nicaraguan President Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra's initiative [words indistinct] international coffee market.

On Monday, President Ortega sent a letter to the presidents of the coffee-producing countries calling for the creation of a front to face the drastic drop in coffee prices, which seriously harms these countries' economies.

During his speech closing the meeting Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca pointed out the importance of this support. A regional commission was created immediately to promote another meeting in London between consumers and producers of the grain.

C.A. ECONOMY MINISTERS DISCUSS REGIONAL ECONOMY

PA141925 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] The Salvadoran, Honduran, and Costa Rican economy ministers and the director of the Secretariat of Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) yesterday described the economic situation faced by the countries of the region as very serious.

The five Central American ministers began a meeting yesterday in an attempt to reactivate the Central American Common Market and to draft a common strategy in view of the plunge taken by the price of coffee.

"The world economic crisis is affecting all the poor countries. We cannot sell our products for more than it costs us to produce them and this translates into poverty for our peoples," Honduran Economy Minister Reginaldo Panting said.

"There is no doubt that the Central American region is undergoing one of the worst economic crises in its history," Salvadoran Economy Minister Ricardo Perdomo said.

Costa Rican Economy Minister Luis Diego Escalante said that "the big problem we face is the low price of basic export products." Escalante said that this problem is made worse by the high price that must be paid for import products.

Meanwhile, SIECA secretary Raul Sierra Franco said that "the international economic crisis strongly affects our economy which, unfortunately, is a dependent economy."

WOMEN DISCUSS ROLE IN SOCIETY, DISCRIMINATION

PA142246 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Report by Roxane Lemus from Managua; date not given; speakers unidentified]

[Text] Women have participated in the Nicaraguan people's political and social struggle in the current century. This participation grew during the final stages of the people's struggle against the Somozist dictatorship. According to statistics, women held 81 percent of the government leadership posts. Also, 26.8 percent of the FSLN's regional committee members were women. In addition, women formed 67 percent of the Sandinist Defense Committee members. Sandinist commanders have said that these figures represent historic progress in the struggle to do away with discrimination against women.

[Begin recording of first speaker] It is the duty of all of the FSLN's organizations and members and all of the social, trade union, and rank and file organizations to promote the mass incorporation of women into the various tasks of the revolution, attend to their specific interests, and struggle against every form of oppression and discrimination. [applause] [end recording]

In addition, women who oppose the Sandinist regime, after they were repressed by state authorities when they tried to hold a peaceful march to commemorate the International Women's Day, said they plan to play an active role in society, but that they are hampered by the Nicaraguan Government.

[Begin recording] [First speaker] We want to play an active role as women, because men and women are equal. I think, also, that the role of women is presently very important in Nicaragua. Women are not only citizens sharing men's rights, but also mothers who suffer for their sons recruited into an obligatory military service to defend the interests of a political party, not those of the nation.

[Second speaker] The Sandinist government often proclaims equality between men and women in Nicaragua. The new Constitution even says women are equal to men and that women are being accorded certain rights. I think, however, that those are only words. The Sandinists have sexual relations with all of the AMNLAE [Luisa Amanda Espinosa Association of Nicaraguan Women] women, some of whom are forced into these relations. [sentence as heard] Others do it because they agreed with the FSLN. If they truly believe in equality and propagandize the International Women's Day, they should have let us opposition women have our commemoration.

[Third speaker] We do not enjoy true freedom to express our feelings or thoughts. Nicaraguan women do not enjoy this right, as other women do, those who agreed with the FSLN. These women enjoy this right in peace and liberty, are allowed to march. These women were not bothered, according to the FSLN's alleged democracy. However, we could not carry out our activities. [end recording]

The women also refuted Commander Bayardo Arce's remarks saying that the regime will keep struggling against machismo expressions and instead invest resources into efforts for the Nicaraguan family. They said that, although the government repressed them violently, they will not stop, but continue their struggle even more vigorously.

CASTRO SPEECH AT MEDICAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE

FL1141800 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at Higher Institute of Medical Sciences in Camaguey, date not given -- recorded]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has toured installations in Florida municipality of his third day in Camaguey Province. As part of his tour, Fidel visited the Camaguey School of Medical Sciences, where he received a report on the progress of that higher educational center, and the Carlos J Finlay detachment. He also visited the main areas of the school. While there, he spoke with a variety of students attending the Higher Institute of Medical Sciences.

[Begin Castro recording] You know that there were 6,000 doctors in Cuba and 3,000 left. Many of them were not capable of going to the mountains or to the country to render services. Three thousand doctors were left and our health program began with these remaining doctors.

Throughout these years, there has been an effort...[change thought] I remember that the Institute of Basic Sciences was organized in 1962 in Giron. There was an effort to enroll as many people as possible in the medical institute. There were not many; they were few. The number of people with degrees were few. There was a time when it was necessary to divide the students. Several studied technology, several studied medicine.

Nevertheless, we slowly began increasing the number of doctors and with the efforts carried out through the years, especially over the last few years, we now have 25,000 doctors but we will continue graduating almost 3,000 doctors a year. Each year we will graduate as many doctors as we had left at the beginning of the revolution and in 1989 we will be graduating more a year than were left at the beginning of the revolution. By 1990 we expect to be graduating 4,000 medical students a year. The idea of the detachment arose during that time, among the declaration of the idea [words indistinct] a historian should gather his data more accurately. The idea of the detachment was one of many measures and it was put into practice.

Thanks to the efforts developed by the revolution in the education field, we are able to count on dozens of thousands of graduates with degrees each year. We have advanced so much in that field that we have had nursing students enroll with a ninth grade education, who are 15 or 16 years old. There were little girls who went to nursing school with their dolls. [laughter] They had to study and they were still playing with dolls. That is an old problem but we have arrived at the privileged situation of enrolling girls and boys with a 12th grade education in the nursing field.

Previously they studied for 2 years. Now they study for 3 years. They will have... [changes thought] they will receive degrees, they will study for 3 years, they will be prepared for enrolling in courses to receive a higher degree in the medical sciences and this will guarantee the quality of their [?technical] personnel.

The idea of the detachment created other measures. They sent [words indistinct] most-advanced medical professors in the world, best universities, they gathered technical books and programs, and with all this, we developed our new plan. This process has been adapted to first and second year students but we now have a new program, which I understand is excellent and includes much medical practice. It begins with exposure to medicine and the polyclinics and it creates the ideal conditions for training doctors.

Also, the detachment was... [changes thought] we had selected the detachment. There was a rigorous selection process that has not had any exceptions. It focused on the academic records, vocation, and political-moral attitude of the youths because medicine is not just any career. It requires much seriousness, dedication, and integrity, as well as special moral conditions. A doctor is not working with things. He is working with people, who trust him with their life and health, as well as that of their families and that is why there is more emphasis on selecting, on choosing students for this detachment than there is for other university students.

The program of integral general medicine was developed. It is an excellent, strong program. It was decided to combine the work of integral general practitioners with a specialty. Thanks to them, all our future doctors will be specialists. All of them. They will also have the considerations that come with being a specialist, the salaries, incomes will reflect their expertise. But something else in the future... [changes thought] we are still training pediatricians, obstetricians, internists, and others. For the interns, their direct residency... [changes thought] however, the direct residency in the future will only be available for orthopedic surgery, general surgery, and other fields of specialization that require manual dexterity. All other specialized fields will first have to be specialists in integral general medicine.

For several more years, the students will have to be interns. In the future, when we have enough specialists in certain areas... [changes thought] because we need them in the polyclinics. We need professors in the family doctor field and we need them in the polyclinic now. After 1991 or 1992, when many doctors have specialized in integral general medicine, the future cardiologists, obstetricians, pediatricians, internists, and other specialists will emerge as doctors with a second speciality. For example, if they have two specialities, they will be in another category and their income, of course, would appropriately reflect what they have done, even though the compensation may not be much.

I imagine that a doctor, who works for 4 or 5 years and then becomes a specialist, such as a pediatrician, will have a vast knowledge of all the conditions of the citizenry. We see the actual individual at the hospital but everything else about the individual is abstract. He is a citizen. No one knows where he lives, how he lives, his family means, or his profession, material conditions, or his environment, which greatly affects a person's health. That knowledge is learned by the doctor in practicing general medicine and in his studies, and I am sure that he will undoubtedly be one of the many doctors who will have worked under circumstances that make him a much better doctor. [applause]

I thank everyone very much, the professors, and the students for the hospitality and warmth with which we have been received today. Fatherland or death, we will win! [end recording]

Castro Concludes Tour

FL132029 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro wrapped up his 3-day visit to Camaguey Province urging all to work to be the site of the 26 July event again and -- why not, he said -- of a party congress.

During an analytical speech delivered before party, government, and Union of Young Communists leaders and cadres in this province, Castro discussed his views and opinions on Camaguey Province's development. He said that Camaguey is among the provinces that offers the most possibilities because of its natural resources and the work style that the party carries out here.

During his speech the commander in chief discussed the trend that existed in the past of establishing new and important industries in the capital. He said this was not good, and that therefore the decision was made to redirect those efforts toward the eastern provinces. He sharply criticized various methods that were used in the special industrial construction plans, which actually slow down and delay plans, instead of making them more dynamic. He said that resolving this problem is one of the main interests of the rectification process.

On agricultural and livestock development in this province, Castro discussed the potential of the dairy (?plan), projected to become the best plan of this kind, he said.

After the meeting at the provincial party school, Castro visited the Higher Institute of Medical Sciences again. Students, professors, and workers there welcomed him warmly.

Castro spoke to the students in the institute's dining hall. He discussed the principal health programs that have been approved to develop this field in congruence with projections on student training. He stressed the importance of the program, which includes a great deal of hands-on medical practice.

[Begin Castro recording] A new field of specialization was opened: that of integral general practitioner. Before there used to be only general practitioners. Those who did not study anything else were general practitioners. Those who started on a specialization and did not complete it, or those who chose not to specialize were all general practitioners. There was no [words indistinct].

In addition to this, we also had the internship at the [word indistinct] hospital, where we are now training obstetricians, pediatricians, internists, and others.

However, the direct residency in the future will only be available for orthopedic surgery, general surgery, and other fields of specialization that require manual dexterity. All of the other fields of specializations will have to be obtained by first being an integral general practitioner. [end recording]

Later, Castro conducted a brief visit to the installations of the new dental clinic and the recently inaugurated soda pop plant.

NONALIGNED COUNTRIES ISSUE COMMUNIQUE, PEACE APPEAL

FL131733 Bridgetown CANA in English 1718 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text]Georgetown, Guyana, March 13, CANA -- A ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) ended here earlier today expressing support for leftist-ruled Nicaragua and condemning the United States and Israel.

A 38-page communique, issued at the end of the talks, also called for a political dialogue between debtors and creditors, including international lending agencies, on Latin America's huge debt problem.

The communique said the "joint interventionist policies" of the U.S. and Israel constituted a threat to the peace and security of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The meeting came out in support against Nicaragua in the face of what the communique called the increased aggression against the leftist-ruled Central American state. [sentence as received]

It endorsed the Contadora process as an authentic regional initiative to peacefully resolve Central America's political problems.

The meeting of the NAM Coordinating Bureau was attended by delegations from over 80 countries.

Delegates agreed to set up a special committee to deal with Latin American and Caribbean issues. One of its tasks will be to visit Nicaragua to express the NAM's solidarity with the Sandinista government.

Representative of Guyana, Zimbabwe, Yugoslavia, India, Congo, Ghana, Panama, and Peru will comprise the committee, chaired by Zimbabwe.

The committee will also submit a report to presidents of the General Assembly and Security Council of the United Nations, voicing the movement's concern over the Central American situation.

Guyana's Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson said there was wide endorsement of the communique, and another conference declaration called the "Georgetown Peace Appeal."

The declaration noted the downfall of dictatorships in several countries, and said others were destined for the same fate. It praised the growing democratisation of the Caribbean and Latin America.

Conference sources said differences among developing countries over a statement on the U.S. role in Central America had prolonged debate at the three-day meeting.

Some moderate NAM members felt the statement, fervently canvassed by the NAM radical wing, was too stridently anti-United States in tone.

Radical member states including Cuba were pressing for a document that would strongly condemn United States policy in Central America, and particularly its alleged interference in Nicaragua's affairs. Trinidad and Tobago Foreign Minister Basdeo Panday complained that in the draft document, the expression imperialism is synonymous with the United States.

Delay on Final Document

PA130444 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0114 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Georgetown, 12 Mar (EFE) -- Differences of opinion and wording within the commission charged with drafting the final document of the meeting of Nonaligned countries threaten to delay the closing of the event until the early hours of Friday morning. The consensus, which has been the objective as well as the salient feature of this special ministerial meeting that started on Tuesday, 10 March, is now being undermined by discussions pertaining to Central American countries such as El Salvador and Honduras.

In the course of marathon sessions, the representatives -- numbering between 55 and 72, according to as-yet-unreconciled estimates -- agreed to eliminate a paragraph concerning the political implications of the U.S. arms sales to Iran scandal, and the diversion of funds to the contras. Also eliminated was a paragraph supporting the Nicaraguan proposal, submitted to the United Nations in February, as an alternative to the Costa Rican peace plan. A third omission dealt with Guatemala, where "political solutions" were demanded for the Guatemalan problem. [passage omitted]

Algerian Delegation Arrives

LD101943 Algiers APS in French 1215 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Georgetown [no date as received] APS -- Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, arrived in Georgetown on Sunday, where he will lead the Algerian delegation at the extraordinary session of the Coordinating Bureau of the Nonaligned Movement on the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Outside the meeting, Dr Taleb Ibrahimi was received by Mr Hugh Desmond Hoyte, president of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, to whom he handed a message of friendship from President Chadli Bendjedid. The foreign minister discussed with Mr Desmond Hoyte developments in the political and economic situation in Latin America, in particular, the Caribbean region, as well as the objectives to be defined within the context of the Coordinating Bureau meeting in Georgetown.

Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi also met the foreign ministers of Argentina and Nicaragua, and the head of the Mexican delegation, with whom he discussed the same topics.